

bring down the house with "The carnival," but refused the inevitable encore. Mr. Stanley then gave "The warrior bold" in fine voice, and gave in response to an encore, "Home, boys, home." A most promising debutante is Miss Mary Nolan, whose "Castle garden" proved her the possessor of an exquisitely sweet voice; as an encore she repeated the last verse. Miss Fitzpatrick's "Soldier's letter," was also encored, and she responded with "Kitty Muldoon." Mr. Montague's "Whistler" was really capital, and Miss Playdall sang "Ever of thee" excellently. Next came an amusing sketch, entitled "My turn next"; the ladies and gentlemen taking part in this proved far above the usual capacity of amateurs and brought a most successful entertainment to an appropriate close. Mr. Hinks, on behalf of Father Hackett, thanked all who had assisted, particularly the visiting contingent.

THEY seem to go in for enjoying themselves up Thames way. We learn from the local *Star* that a novel and very interesting function by way of a "cake and ba-ket" social eventuated in the Public Hall, Panmure, on Wednesday evening, under the presidency of Monsignor McDonald, and was numerously attended, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather. The spacious hall with its beautifully got up ba-kets, and sundry other adornments, looked everything that could be desired. The baskets with their very tempting contents were auctioned by an experienced officer, and the bidding was spirited in the extreme, some fetching the handsome figure of 7s 6d. This part of the evening's proceedings caused very great amusement. The string band led by Mr. P. Quinlan contributed largely to the pleasure of the evening, and the kind artistes did full justice to their respective numbers on the well-selected programme as follows:—Trio, Mr. and Misses Quinlan; song, Miss Kay; song, comic, Mr. Skerrit; song, Miss Swan; piano-forte solo, Miss Badley; song, Miss McCormick; song, comic, Mr. Skerrit; song, Miss Swan; vocal duet, Misses Badley. Another issue of the same paper contains the following:—A very enjoyable concert was given on Friday evening in Cairn's Hall, Ellerslie, under the patronage and presence of Monsignor McDonald. The hall was tastefully decorated with greeneries, lilies, etc., which gave it a most cheerful appearance, and the large audience failed not to accord well merited praise to the accomplished artistes who so kindly gave their valuable services on the occasion. The programme was a varied one and well rendered.

## Diocese of Christchurch.

(From our own correspondent.)

At the 34th exhibition of the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Show, which took place on Friday week, the Association have reason to be satisfied both with the number and quality of the exhibits, and with the manner in which the Show was patronised. The treasurer's figures make it clear that the takings at the gates are little, if anything, below that of last year, which formed a record for the Association. The coveted £1000 has not yet been reached at the gates, but including the entrance fees of those who paid at the railway, £980 was taken, and last year the sum was £912. It is, however, reckoned that there were more people on the ground this year, as the free tickets had increased to nearly 1000, and there were about 250 members' tickets. Altogether 19000 persons paid for admission, and with those who were admitted free, the actual number present could not have been much short of 21000. The weather was very fine, and the crowds of people were remarkably orderly. The writer of a leader in a local paper seems, however, not satisfied with some matters in connection with the show. He says: "It has been so much the fashion among the people of this favoured part of the colony to speak of their annual show as the greatest thing of the kind in the Southern Hemisphere, that they will probably resent any suggestion that there is still room for improvement. We are satisfied, however, that the time has arrived when the best friends and promoters of the exhibition should abandon the old style of extravagant eulogy, and frankly admit that the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association has not kept pace with some other bodies of a similar character, either in the provision of popular attractions or in the encouragement of practical agriculture. The local Association has many advantages. It is the premier institution of the sort in the colony, and therefore, it is not surprising that its growth is associated with all that is best in the development of the province, and that its annual exhibition draws a larger crowd than any other event in the year. But with all this the indisputable fact remains, we presume, that the original intention of the founders of the association has been largely supplanted by a desire to obtain 'record' attendances and to secure a bold advertisement for a few prominent stock-breeders and a number of enterprising manufacturers. The public, without knowing exactly why, continue to flock to the show, and the breeders and manufacturers obtain all the publicity their hearts can desire. But if we take last week's exhibition as a sample of a dozen that have gone before it we may well wonder whether the average visitor was fairly repaid for all his trouble in going to the ground. There was certainly the unusual sight of a new Governor, who spoke at the official luncheon and afterwards did his best to emulate a still more exalted personage, described by one of the Victorian poets:—

With all his court and councillors the good old monarch went,  
The morning that my tale begins through every booth and tent;

He praised each well-made implement with 'Come, that's very nice.'  
And sometimes he asked the use of it and sometimes asked the price.'

There were admirable displays of sheep and implements, but there can be no doubt that a little encouragement given to small farmers and even to cottagers in the way of special classes for home manufactured articles, as well as for stock and produce would be well repaid. Shearing, shoeing and driving competitions, the reinstatement of classes of poultry and the institution of a farmer's flower show, and indeed scores of other things are worthy of considering. Then the grand parade of stock, which, if properly conducted, would give visitors a glimpse of the animals exhibited, was less than an apology for what the parade should be. It is not pleasant to have to find fault, but now is the time to read the lessons that may be drawn from Friday week's gathering—which are emphasised, by the way, by a slight falling off in the receipts at the gates—and if the management is wise in its generation it will not neglect the obvious duties pointed out. The annual luncheon took place in the afternoon in the luncheon room at the show grounds. The room was beaked for the occasion with wreaths and foliage, and the tables were effectively decorated with pot plants. Mr. P. Burke, as usual, provided an excellent luncheon. In reply to the toast "The Governor of New Zealand," his Excellency Lord Ranfurly, who on rising was received with hearty and prolonged applause, said:—Mr. President and gentlemen,—I thank you for the very cordial way in which you have welcomed me and drunk my health. I can only say that my reception in Christchurch has been one that I never could have expected, and I hope on several occasions to come among you again. As regards coming to future meetings of this association, I shall look forward to them with pleasure—as such shows as yours are, besides being of great interest and value to the Colony, of great interest to myself. Such associations, especially in, comparatively speaking, a new country, are of the most benefit to all those who earn their livelihood in any manner from the soil. In these days, when patent follows on the heels of patent, it is necessary for all those who require implements and are desirous of investing their money to advantage to come to some place where they can practically see the various patents, the various tools, and not to judge by possibly a specious advertisement. Your papers in this Colony are very well patronised by advertisers, especially in the patent medicine line, and "that lady who went to a ball" seems to meet me three or four times a day at different places. With respect to live stock, the show is also of the greatest advantage to the pastoralist for if he be so fortunate as to take a prize, it will add greatly in value to the whole of his stock. Should his breed meet the fancy of *connoisseurs*, even should he not be so successful as to catch the judge's eye, he may reap considerable benefits from the sale. The show enables individuals who live many miles from each other to meet and talk over farming matters in general, and, I hope, in many cases, of old days in the Old Country. It enables them to see what each other is doing, and to try to emulate each other in making a success of the particular branch of industry they have undertaken. Mr. President and gentlemen, allow me to again thank you for your extremely cordial reception, which I shall not forget.—(Prolonged applause.)

With much regret I record the death, at the comparatively early age of 55 years, of Mrs. Alice Commons, wife of Mr. Joseph Commons, of River road, Opawa. The deceased lady, who died on Saturday morning last, November 13, at about half-past nine o'clock, was the third daughter of Mr. Michael Hennessey, of Ballandera, County Limerick, Ireland, where she was born, and where she spent the early portion of her life. In company with her husband and their young family she came to Canterbury about 24 years ago in the ship *Maiana*, which was commanded by Captain Rose, and settled in the neighbourhood of Christchurch, where she lived up to the time of her demise. Mrs. Commons, who was a fervent Catholic, and whose memory is held in great esteem, had been in delicate health for some considerable time back. In her last illness she was attended by the Rev. Father Galerne, from whom she received with marked devotion all the consolatory rites of her holy faith. The Sisters of our Lady of Missions frequently visited her, and the Vicar-General attended her before his absence at the time for a few days from the parish. She leaves a husband and a grown up family of four sons and four daughters to mourn her loss. All her children were near her at the time of her demise, and two of her elder daughters are inmates of the Convent in Barbadoes street of the Sisters of our Lady of Missions, and are known in religion as Sister St. Agnes and Sister Mary of Loretto. Early on the Monday following her death her remains were brought from her late residence at Opawa to the Precathedral, where the Rev. Father Galerne, who also officiated at the grave, said a *Requiem Mass* for the repose of her soul. With the same intention the Sisters in the adjoining convent recited offices and prayers for the dead. At two p.m. the funeral *cortege*, which was a large one, was formed, and proceeded from the sacred edifice to the Catholic portion of the Linwood public cemetery, where the deceased was interred.—*R.I.P.*

Messrs Brown, Ewing and Co. have just opened up a choice selection of ladies' blouses or the very latest styles and the most fashionable patterns. A feature of the new stock is that they are all made with detachable collars and cuffs.

The Austral Cycle Agency, George street, have just landed a new stock of ladies' and gents' bicycles of very latest makes and with the most modern improvements. They are offering exceptionally easy terms to purchasers. Catalogues will be sent free on application.

Messrs Dwan Brothers, Wellington, hotel brokers, advertise in this issue several desirable hotels for sale. Anyone in search of hotel property should consult this firm, as from their long experience in the business, they can always fix up purchasers in a satisfactory manner.

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